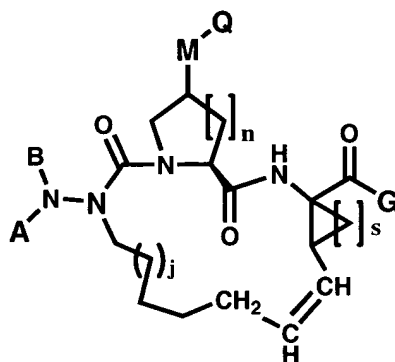


AZA-PEPTIDE MACROCYCLIC HEPATITIS C SERINE PROTEASE INHIBITORS

Abstract

5 The present invention relates to compounds of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or prodrug, thereof:



(I)

which inhibit serine protease activity, particularly the activity of hepatitis C virus (HCV) NS3-NS4A protease. Consequently, the compounds of the present invention interfere
 10 with the life cycle of the hepatitis C virus and are also useful as antiviral agents. The present invention further relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising the aforementioned compounds for administration to a subject suffering from HCV infection. The invention also relates to methods of treating an HCV infection in a subject by administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising the compounds of the present
 15 invention.

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